1	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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3	CITY OF BOSTON COMMUNITY MEETING
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6	Held on Tuesday, August 2, 2016
7	Bruce C. Bolling Building
8	School Committee Room
9	2300 Washington Street, Roxbury
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12	JASCHA FRANKLIN HODGE, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER CITY OF BOSTON
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14	PETER BOWMAN, VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, VERIZON NEW ENGLAND
15	Panel members and members of the public
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MR. HODGE: Welcome, everyone. Thank you very much for being here this evening. This meeting has been organized by the City of Boston to seek input from City residents on Verizon New England's application to obtain a license to offer cable TV service here in Boston.

I'm joined here by Tom Fitzpatrick from Davis
Malm & D'Agostine. He is legal counsel for the City
working on this license agreement. We are also joined
by several folks from Verizon Cable.

This past April, Mayor Walsh announced a partnership with Verizon to bring new options for broadband internet and cable TV services to Boston residents and businesses.

Through a \$300 million investment over the next six years Verizon plans to replace its copper based infrastructure in Boston with the fiberoptic network platform. Verizon has proposed to use this system to offer broadband Internet, telephone and cable TV service to Boston residents.

Under state rules, a company that wishes to offer cable TV services here must obtain a license from the City of Boston. And to issue this license, the City

is following a process created by a state agency, the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable.

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In April, the City opened an application process for all companies interested in the cable TV license. Verizon was the only applicant. Once their application was received via the document known as Form 100, the City issued another document known as the Issuing Authority Report.

This document outlined many of the City's goals for any cable license that we might issue. In response to the Issuing Authority Report, Verizon submitted a revised version of its Form 100 application and provided answers to the questions that the City asked in its Issuing Authority Report.

All the various reports and documents are available on the City's website at boston.gov/verizon. At this point in the process, the City has begun negotiating what is known as a provisional license.

If and when this license is granted, Verizon would be allowed to begin the process of offering cable TV service in Boston. Community input is valuable and important. It will help the City to negotiate a cable license that meets our communities' needs while

fostering competition in the cable TV market.

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This meeting is an opportunity to provide your input and perspective to us, the City of Boston, as we begin the negotiation of the provisional license and eventual final license.

This meeting is open to the public and residents are encouraged to share their comments. The meeting is also being broadcast live on Boston City TV, which is Comcast Channel .4 and RCN Channel 13.

A recording of this meeting as well as any written comments submitted to the City will be made available online also at boston.gov/verizon. The live recorded versions of this meeting will be close captioned for the hard of hearing.

For those in the room, there are language translation services available. Please see a member of the staff if you would like translation assistance.

As we get ready to proceed, I want to invite anyone who is interested in commenting to please sign up at the entrance table. We will call on you one by one to come up to the podium and speak.

In the interest of time and consideration for all in attendance, we may ask you to limit your remarks to three minutes. We will welcome any additional

written testimony for the record. Written comments can be submitted online at boston.gov/verizon. Or, if you would like to provide written comments to us in person or by mail, please see one of the City staff members here tonight and they can provide further information or accept any written comments that you have.

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For those who are speaking, please address your comments to me as the moderator of this meeting. Our primary goal today is to hear your thoughts and opinions.

Although the City of Boston and Verizon will answer questions where possible, please understand that no details of the provisional license have been finalized and we may not be able to give specific answers to some questions.

This meeting is part of the process, it's not the end. A more formal public hearing will likely take place later this fall. Now I would like to invite representatives from Verizon to introduce themselves and to give some remarks.

MR. BOWMAN: Good evening, Jascha and Tom, as well as members of the Boston cable office and other representatives from the City of Boston that are here tonight. Thank you for inviting Verizon to be here this

1 evening.

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My name is Peter Bowman, president of government affairs for Verizon here in New England. To my right I'm joined by my colleagues, Paul Trane and Brendon Pinkard from the firm of Kerbey, Harrington and Pinkard.

I'm also joined by some of my other colleagues, Monica Azare, Verizon vice president and deputy general counsel; Donna Cupelo, Verizon region president; Marie Lasota from our legal department at Verizon; and also Myles Calvey from IBEW 2222; as well as other of my colleagues that I work with on a daily basis.

As Jascha articulated, in April the City of Boston and Verizon announced a partnership in which Verizon will be investing \$300 million in this new infrastructure to build out a state-of-the-art fiber platform across the City.

The new network will offer enormous bandwidth and speeds. It will bring increased competition and choice for broadband and TV services and spur innovation and economic opportunity in neighborhoods across the City.

This fiberoptic network will power many

Verizon services, including FiOS, wireless technology and enhanced Ethernet solutions and Smart Community applications.

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Tonight specifically we are here to discuss

Verizon videotape franchise application for the first

service area. If the license is granted for FiOS TV, in

addition to data and voice, will be among some of the

earlier services we will be able to offer on this fiber

network platform.

The first service area, which is comprised of eight fiber zones in what we call Group A includes the neighborhoods of Dorchester, the Dudley Square

Innovation District, Roslindale and West Roxbury.

We anticipate rolling out services in this area soon after we are able to obtain the cable license as Jascha outlined. I would like to take this opportunity to share some information on Verizon's qualifications to offer consumers another choice for video services.

Verizon is one of the leading providers of broadband and entertainment services. Verizon offers the largest all-fiber network for consumers and small businesses with more than 5.8 million FiOS data customers today and over 7.5 million video customers.

In 2015, Verizon invested more than \$17 billion in wireless, wireline and enterprise infrastructure. We employ a highly-trained workforce of more than 137,000 employees. We have a long history of providing quality wireline and wireless service to consumers.

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Verizon is financially sound and has invested hundreds of millions of dollars into supporting its FiOS business to guaranty its success. Our advanced fiberoptic network which offers video, data and voice connections directly to the customer premise is the most sophisticated in the nation.

The fiber-based network is built, supported and installed locally with highly trained union technicians. It's monitored 24/7 for reliability and quality, providing us the ability to trouble shoot issues long before they even affect the customer.

We have service representatives located here in our Lowell, Massachusetts, call center which would be taking orders for FiOS service. Service-related issues will be cared for by employees in the FiOS Solutions

Center located in Providence, Rhode Island.

Verizon has a long-standing philanthropic partner in Boston whose primary focus is on STEM

education programs that benefit the Boston public school students and helps prepare them for college and careers.

Over the last five years, Verizon has contributed over

3.4 million to non-profits across the City.

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I assure you if the videotape franchise is granted, Verizon will provide an outstanding alternative to video services to residents in Boston, just as we have already done for the past 11 years in 113

Massachusetts communities.

We are excited about this investment and potential for fiber to premises network because it is the most advanced infrastructure in the nation today.

Our FiOS service is the most awarded service in the industry rated highest in consumer satisfaction in the East Region by J.D. Power and No. 1 in Internet speeds for ten years running by PC Magazine.

FiOS TV will provide the consumer with more programing options, better quality service, more flexible plans and competitive pricing.

Again, I commend your desire to provide video choice to residents. Your quick action on the licensing process will ensure the Boston residents will benefit from competitive pricing and enhanced product offerings from a company with a track record like Verizon.

On behalf of Verizon, I want to stress our appreciation for all of your time and effort in this licensing process and thank the City officials and Verizon representatives who will be working diligently to develop a strong, fair agreement to benefit the consumers, the community and City and Verizon.

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I would like to now ask counsel from Kerbey
Harrington and Pinkard, Paul Trane and Brendon Pinkard,
to make a few comments. And once they have completed
their remarks, Mr. Chairman, we will turn it back to you
to proceed with the hearing.

MR. TRANE: My name is Paul Trane. I'm from the Boston based law firm of Kerbey Harrington.

And joining me is Attorney Brendon Pinkard, a partner at our firm.

Brendon and I have had the pleasure of representing Verizon in these types of hearings for well over a decade, and we've helped bring cable competition to some of the nation's largest cities, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., among others. And I must say as a resident of Boston it's nice to be here in Boston doing the same thing.

To the extent that the City is going to use some or all of its records to determine Verizon's

qualification, I would just ask that the Form 400
submission, the amended form, the IR response and
Verizon's most recent annual report be submitted as part
of the record.

I would also like to reserve Verizon written
testimony if required. And with that, we understand the

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testimony if required. And with that, we understand the purpose of this hearing is to ascertain public comments, and we will step aside to answer any questions that come up.

MR. HODGE: Thank you, gentlemen. With that, we will start by calling some names of folks who signed up. For anyone that just joined, if you would like to speak, please sign up at the desk in the back and we will call on you.

I'm going to call two names at a time just to have someone on deck. The first two are people Adam
Aliberte and Glenn Williams.

(All names are spelled phonetically.)

MR. ALIBERTE: My name is Adam Aliberte.

I'm a resident of Boston. I live at 1 Mobile Street in

West Roxbury. I've been an employee for Verizon for 16

years. Ten of those years I've lived in Boston.

I'm here tonight, much like Mr. Bowman said, excited about the opportunity to bring this service into

greater Boston and to Boston communities. I think it's a wonderful opportunity for Bostonians and Verizon employees. I would like Mayor Walsh to make a quick and expedient approval for the Verizon video franchise. Thank you.

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MR. HODGE: Glenn Williams and Ted Lewis next.

MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. Thank you for this forum and this opportunity to share what's going on in our City. My name is Glenn Williams. I'm the arts director at Sacred Heart School in Roslindale and also a community board member at WGBH.

In November I will be celebrating 19 years of producing a show on Boston Neighborhood Network called It's All About Arts.

One of the things that our program at BNN does is it provides for the citizens of Boston an incredible opportunity to be exposed to the different forms of art that's available in New England and different things that are happening around even the east cost.

We have guests coming from all over the place. We had the great Judy Barrow on our program to talk about some of the things she is going to be doing and also our late, great friend Tom Mennino was also a

frequent guest on our show.

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The other thing that BNN does, and I'm hoping that this is going to be something that's going to continue, it supplies what cable access has promised and provided for the citizens of Boston, a voice.

It's a place where people can come and over the airways talk about their non-profit issues, bring guests in to talk about what is their mission statement. It's a venue where the citizens of the City can come and learn how to do television production.

Because of my affiliation with BNN, the school that I teach at has its own television station. It's the only elementary school around that has one. And if you can imagine, fourth and fifth graders announcing to the rest of the school over the Smart Boards in the morning, you can see the benefit that that has to these kids.

But the main thing I want to stress is that bringing this into the City is a fear that it's going to diminish that access that the people have. And it is vital that people have an opportunity to turn on Channel 9 or turn on Channel 3 and find out what's happening directly in their community, something that's happening to them next door, and also be afforded the opportunity

1 to go and produce that kind of programing themselves. 2 I know that I've only got three minutes, but I 3 want to thank you for the forum. It's All About Arts 4 Monday night at 6 o'clock. MR. HODGE: Thank you, Mr. Williams, both 5 for the comments and for the dedication to supporting 6 7 the arts and public participation in broadcasting here 8 in Boston. Hopefully others will take the plug. 9 I would 10 like to invite next Ted Lewis. Oh. Next up will be Teresa Canavan. After that will be Jeff Coaston. 11 12 MS. CANAVAN: Hi, good evening. My name is Teresa Canavan. I've been a lifelong resident of 13 West Roxbury. I currently live at 86 Parkland Road. 14 15 I'm also a manager for Verizon in the engineering 16 organization. 17 I work on methods and procedures, process 18 improvement, system enhancement and engineering 19 quidelines. I'm here tonight because I want to take 20 advantage of this opportunity to share my thoughts and 2.1 comments on the video franchise in addition to my 2.2 family, friends and neighbors. As a citizen of this City, we have waited an 23

awful long time for FiOS to come to Boston. We are

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eager to have it. As world class sports athletes, it's really not complete unless residents have the video piece of that TV franchise.

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So as Verizon comes in and builds this world class fiber infrastructure with the broadband and as we talked about Ethernet services, it's really important from a residential standpoint we have a complete package with the TV and video franchise.

In closing, I would ask that you try to make this process as quick as you can for the residents of the City to have a complete FiOS package. Thank you.

MR. HODGE: Thank you for your comments. Jeff Coastein and after that Mike Kincade.

MR. COASTEIN: Good evening. My name is Jeff Coastein. I've been a resident of Boston for over 40 years and I am presently employed at Verizon. This is an exiting time to work for Verizon in Boston.

As I say, we are proud that Verizon is offering to come in here and invest \$300 in a fiber network. I can't wait to take advantage of this. It's been a long time waiting.

And as you know, there is really no competition in cable franchising in the City of Boston.

At this point in time, as always Verizon comes out when

they can't do any type of development when it comes into neighborhoods.

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As others said earlier, I can't wait to make sure Verizon gets approved and hope with your assistance it does happen. Thank you.

MR. HODGE: Thank you very much for your comments. Next up is Mike Kincade and then Ben Stuart.

MR. KINCADE: My name is Mike Kincade. My address is 75 Braden Street in Boston, Massachusetts. I am the host and producer of a BNN show called Age Wise Boston. We have just celebrated our tenth year anniversary.

I want to share two things with you. Just recently I had the opportunity, I was sitting in a lobby, lounge, watching television, cable television, what I thought was cable television. And it was actually satellite television.

And I found that out because I went to watch a particular show that I generally watch around 1 o'clock in the afternoon if I'm free eating my lunch. And it wasn't on that station because it wasn't carried by that satellite network.

And first I didn't understand. This is a basic show that I thought was everywhere. But on that

particular satellite network, because of whatever reason, they weren't showing it. I share that with you because my concern, and I'm going to piggyback on what Glenn said, one of the things -- my audience is predominately seniors.

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It's a show that's geared toward the family with emphasis on the senior population. We know that with seniors, I'm almost one, change is difficult. They are comfortable. They go with what they know. They are comfortable with that they know.

And our concern is this. If this happens, they may leave Comcast and we will lose them as our viewers. And one of the other things that I want to share with you, the coolest thing about having a TV show is when we run into folks that watch our show, they tell us about our show.

With me, one of the things I always ask is,
"What would you like to see?" And they tell me the
things they like about the show, they talk about BNN
broadcasting. It's that we show the City as it is.
Good, bad, and ugly, but we show it as it is.

If you've ever tuned into any of the BNN shows, a lot of time you will see a montage of the City.

And they like the fact that we highlight our City.

So I guess what I would ask of you guys is to figure out a way if possible so that one of my viewers doesn't go turn on Age Wise Boston on Tuesdays at 2:30 on Channel 9 and get a message saying it's not being broadcast on the network.

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MR. HODGE: Thank you very much for your comments and contributions to community programing. I think it's a good time to just state that the City is incredibly supportive of community television and community television programing.

We know that this gives not only a window for City residents to not only learn about what's happening in their communities but also a voice that you would not otherwise have a chance to create content.

And certainly as we have with other cable television licenses, as we go into this negotiation, it will be critically important for us to make sure that we are protecting that asset and the benefits that it brings to the City of Boston and the opportunity that it creates for the gentlemen who have spoken today and some of the other people in the community to have a voice. We hear you loud and clear. Thank you very much.

Next up I would like to invite Ben Stuart followed by Eleni Vidalis.

MR. STUART: My name is Ben Stuart. I live at 238 Parker Hill Ave. in Mission Hill. In my job at the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, I attend a lot of public hearings and I think access to a variety of cable providers has been an issue that we've heard a lot about, whether it's about providing internet to low-income residents, a lack of services provided or even something like satellite dishes proliferating in certain neighborhoods of the City. It's something that the City has been trying to combat for awhile.

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I think Verizon's commitment to spend \$300 million over the next six years provides a potential solution to this. I think it's important to keep in mind that Internet and cable is not simply something for entertainment, it's something that large and small businesses in Boston depend on heavily to get business done.

There's a large student population in Boston that depends on it for research and what many people depend on for their daily news. Currently you hear a lot of complaints in certain neighborhoods about one provider being the only option and the potential for increased costs resulting in having two choices of service or a higher bill that you're forced to pay.

And this is just one potential solution. I think that approving the Verizon FiOS TV video franchise in an expedient manner is the next logical step for Verizon to continue with its City's infrastructure and shown through this \$300 million contract.

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MR. HODGE: Thank you for your comments. Next up Eleni Vidalis and after that Myles Calvey.

MS. VIDALES. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Eleni Vidales. I'm a lifelong resident of the City of Boston. I'm not going to tell you how many years that is. Take my word for it.

I am a resident of Hyde Park, Massachusetts.

I've been a BNN host and producer for 21 years. In June it was my 21st anniversary on BNN. I'm proud to say that I'm the longest running live television program here in Boston and I believe throughout the country.

The Greek program started as a half hour show and is now watched around the world due to the streaming. We are watched in Greece and Cypress and throughout the United States. We have had countless guests, political leaders here from the City, from the state and throughout Greece and the United States.

We don't just focus on Greek issues, we focus

on all issues. The importance of community media is the proximity that it brings of the issues to the people that perhaps would not have ordinarily bumped into each other, the issue and the people.

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It is the only max communication that provides the opportunity for someone to see and learn something unique, even more unique than the Inside Edition.

Whether it's local government meetings, school board sessions, religious or political organizations, youth programs, music or entertainment, these local programs are a powerful voice of democracy.

In the time of media consolidation, failing newspapers, public access TV has taken on a greater role of importance for, about and by the community. Many public access stations are transforming. And in our case here in Boston we already have inter-media and technology centers teaching media literacy, computer skills.

These are some of the valuable contributions that are provided through community access. Also something that is extremely vital to our community, to each organization, and to Boston residents as a whole is that community coverage of events.

Mr. Bowman, Verizon's contribution to the

Boston public school system, as a parent of three Boston public school students, don't go without recognition.

And I would like to believe that with such presence that you would strengthen your community involvement by ensuring the continuous funding and access of Boston public access television. Thank you.

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And thank you for making the statement about the City support of continuing Boston public access.

MR. HODGE: Thank you for your comments and contribution to the City. Next up Myles Calvey and then Yvonne Powell.

MR. CALVEY: Thank you. My name is Myles Calvey. I'm the business manager of Local 2222 of the IBEW. Our office is located at 1137 Washington Street in the Lower Mills of Dorchester, and I personally live at 7 Wood Road in Belmont.

I mention Belmont only because I actually appeared at a public hearing like this for the town of Belmont when Verizon again asked for an application for license.

And I did it, quite frankly, with no regrets and to this day my neighbors still like me because everything that Verizon said they would do they did. I want to put on the record that.

I also want to put on the record to thank the mayor. We had a hearing like this that went the other way back in October where Verizon didn't have an interest in doing it. And through the mayor's persistence, he convinced Verizon, which is not altogether easy sometimes.

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And I really want to thank Verizon, especially Mr. McGavin, who I had a conversation about just this \$300 million investment. This is not you go out in the backyard and put a shovel in the ground and get it.

This is a lot of money.

And, quite frankly, they can do it anywhere but they chose here because they believe us. To me this is opportunity. I'm a union leader. This is jobs.

This, quite frankly, is going to have a minimum of 300 to 400 jobs in the City of Boston.

The second thing is quality. No one who takes FiOS ever gripes about it ng an inferior product. When they go against any other provider, it's always Verizon FiOS on top.

The third thing is opportunities. I sat and bargained with the company, and I had mayors in different cities and towns come and meet with Verizon to try to implore them.

I had the mayor of Syracuse come in and pretty much begging to get FiOS into their area. That's the importance of this. And that's why it's so important that the residents of Boston understand how great this is going to be.

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The opportunities going forward of removing the old, antiquated copper system and moving forward to pretty much doing anything now across a pair of, quite frankly, light is amazing.

I've been in this company 48 years and I go back, we had celebrations like this in touch tone service. This is where we've been. It's amazing that we are now on the brink of really something that's going to well go into the next 50, 60 years.

I implore the group to just move quickly on this. It's a great opportunity and we want to make it happen. Thank you.

MR. HODGE: Thank you very much. Next I would like to invite Yvonne Powell and Theji Jayaratne.

MS. POWELL: Thank you. My name is Yvonne Powell. I live at 185 Thornton Street in Roxbury. I come before you to make two statements.

One has to do with BNN and the other that has to do with the Verizon product called the Internet. For

the past four years, it has been a real joy for me and many of my friends who are part of Seniors on the Move of the Roxbury YMCA to be involved in producing in all of its forms, not just as hosts, but as camera people, directors, as technical people, a show that we call Seniors on the Move.

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It's an opportunity for us to be involved in producing shows that interest us as seniors. So my first point has to do with I hope and I look forward to Verizon being as supportive of BNN as Comcast has.

Without that forum, many of the people in Roxbury would not have an opportunity on a daily basis to see people who look like us, to hear about issues that concern us. That's been invaluable to us, and I look forward to Verizon continuing to support that with BNN.

And then my second point is very personal.

And that is it's a joy for me and for my 94-year-old

mother and I to in fact connect to the Internet. It's a

pleasure. Except when it doesn't work.

We had the real pleasure three years ago now to build a new home, a new retirement home for us in Roxbury. But in those three years, I have had Verizon to our home twice to in fact address the fact that we

1 have had trouble with the Internet. 2 In fact, I should have called today and 3 yesterday and the day before because it has been 4 intermittent. I urge you to make certain that the quality of any new product that's brought into Boston 5 measures up to the quality and standard that we would 6 7 expect of any product. I look forward to your continued support of 8 BNN and I really do look forward to your improvement in 9 10 your Internet product. Thank you. 11 MR. HODGE: Thank you very much. 12 MR. BOWMAN: I would ask one of my 13 colleagues to please follow up and make sure we get your home number and look at your service to try to correct 14 15 any problems that you're having. 16 I do assure you that the fiber network that we 17 are planning on employing here in the City is 100 18 percent reliable. It's the latest infrastructure, as 19 Myles Calvey just articulated. 20 It's just a tremendous product. I apologize 2.1 for any problems you've had. We'll make sure we look 2.2 into it. 23 MR. HODGE: Next up is Curtis Henderson

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MS. COYNE: Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Patricia Coyne. I'm a resident of Boston, and I currently reside at 139

Keystone Street in West Roxbury. I'm also a Verizon employee for the last 29 years.

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I am here tonight to show my support for Verizon's application to offer FiOS TV. I feel Boston residents need a real choice for entertainment services and Verizon's entry to the market will benefit residents living in our community.

Once FiOS TV is available in Boston, residents will have access to more channels, a diverse programing lineup and more competitive pricing than we see today.

I appreciate your leadership in bringing

Verizon to Boston and urge you to advance the process to award Verizon a video license as soon as possible.

MR. HODGE: Thank you for your comments.

MR. HENDERSON: Good evening. My name is Curtis Henderson. I'm general manager of Boston

Neighborhood Network, BNN, the City of Boston's non-profit, charitable tax exempt public access production and training center.

I'm here tonight to testify on behalf of BNN at this important community meeting. First I would like

to thank the City of Boston, the Department of
Innovation and Technology and Verizon for this
opportunity to introduce ourselves. We look forward to
working with you to serve the people and organizations
of Boston.

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BNN wishes to emphasize the benefits to the general public and to the City of Boston from continuing strong licensing support for Public Education and Municipal access and BNN.

In Boston, we are fortunate to have BNN which has provided community access to the cable channels for thousands of Bostonians over the past 33 years.

Continued and level funding support is warranted based on BNN's extraordinary accomplishments and strong track record in the provision of important training, production and media access services.

BNN produces quality and informative local programing about City of Boston public affairs, community and public events. Some examples include Boston Neighborhood Network News in collaboration with Boston University.

BNN produces BNN news five nights a week providing in-depth interviews and on location coverage of issues and happenings of vital importance to all of

Boston's communities.

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Five years, ago Comcast hired BNN to produce all of its local origination programing, including Extra Help, a homework help call-in program for Boston students, and Around Town, a magazine format program which provides free coverage of local community events for non-profits and community groups.

BNN live programing and staff and interns enable dozens of non-profits and public agencies to produce programs on a wide spectrum of issues.

Programs are live and interactive enabling viewers to dialogue directly with public servants and community leaders. BNN also collaborates with the City of Boston to produce Game of the Week, schools sports programing for the City, as well as other community events, neighborhood parades and political forums.

BNN provides production resources for Boston residents to produce their own programing providing a broad range, Boston specific programing for our viewers on our channels and live streamed on our website.

Last year, our members produced 52 new programs each week in 12 different languages using the community TV studio, digital field production equipment, the BNN Timothy Smith Network Media Lab and the mobile

production truck.

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BNN is proud of the many accomplishments and innovative initiatives which are too many for review in this verbal testimony. It's BNN's view that a City with a rich history of voices raise to create democracy and a long history of leadership in community media and access should continue its leadership in the provision of community media.

Without the support of the City of Boston cable licenses, we would not have been able to serve so many Boston residents over these many years. This support should continue on a level funded basis to ensure a level playing field is maintained going forward.

We are grateful to Mayor Martin Walsh, the Licensing Issuing Authority and the Department of Innovation and Technology for their public collaboration and that we continue to meet important communications, technology and civic needs of the City and the general public.

MR. HODGE: Thank you very much for both your comments and your leadership at BNN. I and many of my colleagues have had the pleasure of working with you over the years and we appreciate all you do for Boston.

1 On deck is Ezekial Milfort. If anybody has 2 joined us since we started and you would like to make 3 comments, please make sure you sign up at the desk in the back. 4 MR. JAYARATNE: Thanks for the opportunity 5 6 to speak. My name is Theji Jayaratne. I'm an 7 international student who recently graduated from 8 Northeastern University as an electrical engineer. 9 Last year, I don't know if you guys know, but 10 Northeastern has an internship program of six months on 11 and six months of school. I got to intern at BNN. 12 as a foreigner, they accepted me with open arms and I had a lot of hands-on experience. Great people. 13 14 And it kind of motivated me to apply to film 15 school at USC. I got in. The opportunities you get at 16 BNN are amazing. And I think the hands-on experience in 17 studio can't be compared to anyone else. They let you 18 hold the cameras, they let you do everything. 19 The experience at BNN is priceless, and I hope 20 there will be continued support. Thank you. 2.1 MR. HODGE: Thank you very much for your 2.2 comments. On deck is Katrina Conrad and up next is 23 Ezekial Milfort. 2.4 MR. MILFORT: Good evening. My name is

Ezekial Milfort, and I am a production assistant at BNN.

I'm glad to be here because I want to speak for the youth at BNN. Many of the programs that are at BNN are specifically tailored toward students.

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Being here to express how that helps me and other people my age is a great. Most certainly BNN has the ability to teach you how to operate the studio, which a lot of people don't have the opportunity at all. And we are giving them this experience, something that they never had before.

Just last week, I myself was teaching kids how to use cameras and operate in a live studio. It was really cool. And I think as Verizon comes into the City of Boston, BNN will most certainly be able to reach out to more people through Verizon.

I think that's a fantastic resource to have for all of us at BNN. I'm very glad that you guys are here and letting the community speak on it. Thank you.

MR. HODGE: Thank you very much. Next up is Katrina Conrad followed by Theodora Hanna.

MS. CONRAD: Good evening. Katrina Conrad with Madison Park Development Corporation. We are a developer and owner of residential and commercial property in and around Boston, but more importantly here

in the Dudley Square area.

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With the multiple interruption of service in both residential and business service over the last two months just in Roxbury alone by our present carrier, we ask Verizon to move forward with the expansion of services in the immediate area.

Please note we are currently in the midst of several renovation projects just two blocks over and will be expecting to work with DPU to conduct street and sidewalk repairs by the spring of 2007.

We think it's an opportune time for Verizon to expedite the installation of a fiberoptic network in the area upon being granted the provisional license. Thank you.

MR. HODGE: Thank you very much.

MR. BOWMAN: We are excited. This is right near the Innovation Center and it's is one of our initial build out areas. We are excited about the opportunity. I'll ask one of my colleague to follow up with you just to understand where your properties are.

MR. HODGE: On deck is Tony Brewer.

MS. HANNA: Thank you for the opportunity to interview to this very important conversation. I'm Theodora Hanna from (not recorded), a non-profit

tackling digital divide by providing free Internet skills training, discounted computers and help signing up for low-cost Internet access. We do this because the Internet isn't a luxury anymore. It's a necessity and human right. I'm sure I don't need to tell any of you that.

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I have three questions tonight, specifically about Verizon's plan to help make the Internet accessible to Boston's low income and underserved residents. To the extent these can't be answered tonight, I ask that they be taken into consideration.

My first question is what will the high-quality discounted options be for folks who can't afford the standard product? No. 2, is Verizon going to participate in the lifeline program?

And No. 3, is Verizon open to working with non-profits like ours that provide the necessary skills and hardware to use the Internet in order to make your tremendous investment in the infrastructure even more powerful? Thank you.

MR. HODGE: Thank you very much. I also want to say thank you for the tremendous work that Technology Goes Home does in Boston. I've had the chance to see first hand the impact of the programs that

you do have on families and people in the City and recognizing this is probably the single most powerful program in the City for bridging the gaps that unfortunately still exist when it comes to connectivity and technology skills.

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I really appreciate the work you do and certainly we will take the issues that you identified to heart as we approach this licensing process. Is there anyone from Verizon.

MR. BOWMAN: I would just say that Verizon is committed to digital equity and that's reflected in the recent \$100,000 donation made to the City to ensure digital equity and opportunity to use. I'm sure the office will make good use of it.

 $$\operatorname{MR}.$$ HODGE: Next up is Tony Brewer followed by Kevin Wiant.

MR. BREWER: Good evening, gentlemen. My name is Tony Brewer. I'm a resident of Roxbury, born in Boston City Hospital when it was City Hospital, now Boston Medical.

The situation I have is there's going to be a lot of wires running through people's yards and homes in the City. Before I go there, there's also supposed to be a community liaison for Verizon. Am I correct?

1 MR. BOWMAN: Yes.

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MR. BREWER: Never met him. I go to a lot of community meetings. I'm a ward committee member for this district, and it would have been nice to have gotten a heads-up with the exception of not seeing it right away.

I don't work with the BNN. I know some of the people that are there because I watch the programs periodically. And I think they are doing a tremendous job with the City, and I hope you guys can work with them.

But my concern is the wires and everything that's going to be buried. We already have a lot of construction going on as it is. How are we going to work with the residents that live in these houses that have Verizon people trampling through their backyards and running wires and everything like that? Do we have anything in place for that?

MR. BOWMAN: We've been working closely with the neighborhood services and we want to make sure as we do begin rolling out our network we do work with the liaison.

We had a meeting with them a few months back to make sure all of this work is communicated when we

begin in earnest. I assure you that we will be reaching out to you. Like I said to a couple of other colleagues of mine here, we want to make sure we reach out to you personally.

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MR. BREWER: My concern is the community.

I take a stake in where I live and the neighborhoods around it. These are the people I talk to on a daily basis. I do a lot of political and civic engagement throughout the community and throughout the state, statewide and City-wide.

I talk to a lot of people. And that's part of what I do. One of the things folks are talking about this and it got sprung on them. I'm all for technology. I love it. It's a wonderful opportunity to have someone else have an opportunity instead of just Comcast.

I applaud Verizon for stepping up to the plate. I want to note that there will be a series of these meetings going forth to put the community at ease. Do you want to talk to the community? Will there be any of that?

MR. BOWMAN: As I stated, we will work with Neighborhood Services and make sure that we do come out to the community. We will definitely talk to you -- MR. BREWER: I'll definitely call you.

Thank you very much. Thank you for coming out. Let's go Verizon.

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MR. HODGE: Thank you for the comments. would also add that the City will have a role to play here. As part of the larger set of agreements that the City struck with Verizon, we negotiated a revised process for doing permit review and approval realizing that Verizon was going to be doing a large volume of work within the City as part of their network transformation of the project.

We agreed to a permitting process that would allow the City to work in bulk with some of the permit applications that we anticipate to receive from Verizon.

That's both to help expedite the process of the network being built and our own internal review, and it also serves as way for us to help make sure we are looking holistically at the impacts that any planned work has on neighborhoods and communities so that we can minimize any negative impact of the volume of work.

Neighborhood Services is heavily involved in this project, and we will happily work with you and welcome your ideas for how we can best as the City of Boston make sure that we are reaching out to the people in the community who could be impacted by any of the

work that comes along with this project and make sure that we are communicating and also giving them a chance to give us feedback and reflect on what's happening in the neighborhoods.

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Thank you for your comments. Next up is Kevin Wiants followed by Robyn Casper.

MR. WIANTS: Good evening. I'm really here wearing three hats. I'm a 35 year resident of Boston. I'm also executive director for the Roxbury Innovation Center here at the Bolling Building and also have been involved in several startups around the Boston area over those 35 years.

The extension of broadband to the City of
Boston is very important to allow residents access the
information and entertainment services and allow them to
participate in today's new economy.

Small businesses and startups of all types need fast Internet access to run their basic services and as well as to develop new innovative services.

We see at our programs here at the Roxbury
Innovation Center that there's a real thirst for
knowledge and for interactive programing.

For example, during the summer, we have had over 100 students coming in multiple days a week to

attend classes and workshops as well as to use the computers provided by the Timothy Smith network and the Internet provided by Verizon services here in the building.

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As a consumer, providing TV access across the Verizon broadband network will provide a long awaited competitor to the present provider. As a provider of telecom services in the past, I know that this service will allow Verizon to leverage their infrastructure and have more revenue generating services and share the cost across their infrastructure.

This will allow them to develop new services to help residences and businesses in the City of Boston.

I also know there are several startups in Boston looking at the innovation opportunities between adding entertaining and information services.

They would not understand this environment without having access to more integrated services.

Therefore, we are very much in support that Verizon also provide TV services across their broadband network.

MR. HODGE: Thank you for your comments. Next up we have Robyn Casper followed by Don Gillis.

MS. CASPER: Hi, good evening. My name is Robyn Casper. I'm here on behalf of Councilor Michael

Flaherty who couldn't be here tonight.

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I have a quick question for you. We heard there have been a few issues in other cities such as Philadelphia and New York City where Verizon was not able to offer services equitably to all the neighborhoods.

So how can we make sure that Verizon will fulfill their commitments here in all of our neighborhoods and when do you expect to start expanding to neighborhoods such as Brighton and South Boston, East Boston, etcetera?

MR. HODGE: I'll let Verizon speak about future plans. What has been indicated in the response to the Issuing Authority Report, as was mentioned by the folks from Verizon earlier, is their initial service area for their cable TV license would be the Dudley Square neighborhood or Roxbury, West Roxbury and Dorchester.

They have suggested in their response to our report that they may seek to expand that service area in the future. And I know that the comments that they have made as part of the announcement of the larger project have been very much to suggest that they intend to expand the scope of their build throughout the entire

footprint of Boston.

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As the Department of Innovation and Technology and our cable office, which is managing this licensing process, we are looking very closely at other cities that have gone through a similar licensing process with Verizon and other providers to understand where there have been challenges where the cities have felt like their expectations for the provider has not been met by Verizon or any other provider.

And we are working to craft a license that allows both clarity on what those expectations are to make sure that we and the provider both are on the same page about what we can expect them to do and that we have the tools that we need to both confirm that they have met whatever obligations they agreed to and that there are tools available in the event that those obligations are not met.

There are many details in the cable license around where and whether the provider has a specific obligation to offer service at a given location. All of those are things we expect to be initiated in the licensing process.

But we are certainly looking at the various examples that you mentioned and others to guide us

1 through that process. 2 MR. TRANE: In both New York and 3 Philadelphia, the cable licenses there had language around equitable group appointment to ensure digital 4 equity in those cities. Verizon met those commitments 5 and both cities certified that. 6 7 MS. CASPER: Did you have any expected 8 timeline? 9 MR. HODGE: Are you asking for a timeline 10 for other neighborhoods? 11 MR. BOWMAN: It's fair to say, as Jascha 12 said at our initial announcement in April, this is an extensive build across the City. We will be deploying 13 14 fiber network across the City. 15 We had made initial comments it probably could 16 take somewhere in the range of five to six years. Right 17 now we are focused as outlined. It is our intention to 18 expand this network across the City. 19 MR. HODGE: Thank you very much. Next up 20 is Don Gillis followed by Toni Troop. 2.1 MR. GILLIS: Good evening. Thank you for 2.2 the opportunity to make some brief comments. I want to 23 first thank Mayor Walsh and Mr. Hodge and members of the 2.4 administration for helping set the table for this

important conversation for Boston and Boston's future.

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My name is Don Gillis. I'm here today on behalf of the Massachusetts Workforce Board Association. I'm also a Jamaica Plain resident. And I know that Jamaica Plain didn't make the first part of the list.

That aside, the Workforce Board Association is a statewide business led organization that represents the members of the Massachusetts' 16 regional workforce. You would know that as the Boston Private Industry Council.

And we work to establish jobs and work in the system of the Commonwealth that serves the residents and businesses in our state. Our members include employers, representatives of labor, higher education, business and industry, economic development and workforce organizations.

I'm here today principally because we know the work that Verizon has done. We heard Peter Bowman talk about what goes on in education in Boston and the role that Verizon plays in the Boston public schools, the amount of funds given to non-profits.

But that isn't something that just happens in Boston. It happens in the 16 regions throughout the Commonwealth where Verizon supports workforce

development and these activities and strategies to put people to work and get training and skills to increase their livelihoods.

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More competition and choice for video Internet services will be great for residents, of course, and also a tremendous boost to economic development and job creation in Boston's business community.

The fiberoptic, state-of-the-art network will give business, research facilities and manufacturers and other public and private entities better, faster

Internet service and another option for TV services.

This will be a great boom to small businesses, which is a major growth engine in our state and our country as they upgrade to fiber so they can depend on reliable service and can be larger firms.

In addition, this network will without question spur economic output and increase employment opportunities for careers and job seats. One of the things we believe will be very important will be for new jobs created as part of this project.

We heard from the IBW that authority be given to Boston area residents and that training in partnership with the mayor's Office of Workforce

Development in Boston be put in place.

That Boston residents will access training and the opportunities and the new jobs particularly created by this level of investment. Business and consumers alike will benefit from competitive markets through innovative service offerings, expanded access and fair pricing.

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The City of Boston, we urge them to move forward quickly as soon as possible to approve Verizon's license and putting in the conditions and requirements that will benefit all residents of Boston's neighborhoods so that Boston can join the other 113 cities and towns in Massachusetts that currently have FiOS.

And we can also do something else that the gentleman said, we can take off the dishes off the front of the houses. I think everyone would love that a lot and it would do that as well. Thank you very much for the opportunity to make comments.

MR. HODGE: Next up we have Toni Troop followed by Tim Lynch.

MS. TROOP: Good evening. Thanks for having us here this evening. I live in Jamaica Plain.

I've been there for about 14 years I guess at this point. I can't speak to the technology frankly.

I can't even fathom how visual and data and all this travels over light. It's mind boggling. I'm just glad that when I turn on my computer or TV and I call my mother in Atlanta that it works.

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But what I can speak to is how much I'm looking forward to have choices. I have really two stories to tell. One is that my partner has the patience of a saint when it comes to negotiating with different services for different fees and packages. And I don't.

You could also say she is a dog with a bone. It's like, no, I'm going to get the best here and this doesn't work. And right now she is frustrated because there's no one to compete with.

She wants that opportunity but not just for her but also for our neighbors. When new people move into our neighborhood, "What do you use?" Well, there's only one choice. It would be nice for us to have that competition.

We have also done some community service with elderly folks in the community. Their choices are very limited. They are on a fixed income. The prices and packages that they are offered are astronomical compared to what their income is. We need to be thinking about

how we provide options for people that match their economic reality.

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We are delighted to see the Community

Workforce Development. It's so important. To follow up

on the gentleman who spoke, generally yes, we need the

workforce development.

But I think we particularly need to be paying attention to traditionally underserved communities, make sure that communities of color and women continue to have opportunities for really well paid jobs and have a trajectory for their future.

I would be remiss if I also didn't just recognize the tremendous work that Verizon has done as a community partner as have others have around the state. Time and again we have seen them stepping up for issues and investing in the community.

We appreciate them investing where their work is but we also recognize them having to invest in the community as a whole. Thank you for the opportunity.

MR. HODGE: Thank you for your comments.

Next up we have Tim Lynch followed by Milton Irving. We are getting close to the end of our list. If there's anybody else who wishes to speak that has not signed up, please go to the desk and sign up.

MR. LYNCH: Good evening. I'm Tim Lynch.

I'm here today because I'm a long-term member of the

Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association. Also by way of

background, I'm a personal injury lawyer in downtown

Boston.

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I'm also president of the Board of Boston
CASA, which recruits, trains and supervises volunteers
who go into the court system and represents the rights
of abused and neglected children in the court system.

I'm here to speak in favor and in support of BNN. BNN is a wonderful professional organization that provides the Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association with the opportunity to have a show called Legal Minds.

Legal Minds has been on air longer than I've been a host. I've been a host since 2002.

Over that period of time, BNN has provided the Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association basically two things. It's a live call-in show. And we've been able to on this show explain to the general public all the legal issues that affect the LGBTQ community.

Since 2002, the issues regarding marriage, comparison between marriage and civil union, what you do when you're married in Massachusetts and you go to a state that doesn't recognize your marriage, all the

implications of the marriage choice including up to today's legal issues being transgender.

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If you were transgender in Massachusetts up to a year ago, you could not be discriminated if you were hired by a restaurant. You could not be discriminated for employment at that restaurant. However, if you were to eat a meal there did the have the right to discriminate against you for being transgender.

There's a bill on Beacon Hill regarding that issue, and the show allowed us the opportunity to explain these legal issues and many other legal issues as they affect the LGBTQ community.

The show also allowed us to focus on other issues, issues ignored in general by the mainstream media. Specifically anybody who worked in downtown Boston a few years ago, when you see homeless people huddled in in the entranceways of various stores, you noticed that they changed.

All of a sudden, you saw kids, 12, 13, 14-year-old kids huddled in trying to keep warm in the winter. So the show allowed us the opportunity to interview various people.

There was an explosion in Massachusetts and nationwide. 40 percent of all homeless youth, 40

percent are LGBTQ. And the show allowed us the opportunity to explore these issues and explain to the general public exactly what was going on, what was being done to address these issues.

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So on behalf of the Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association, I'm here today to say please keep BNN.

They are wonderful. They provide an outlet, a needed outlet to this community so we can explain issues that affect our community to the general public and go into issues that are being ignored by the general media.

Thank you.

MR. HODGE: Thank you for your comments and for the work you do to support the LGBTQ community here in Boston. I appreciate it. Milton Irving followed by Walter Magnus.

MR. IRVING: Good evening. I want to thank the City and Verizon for taking the opportunity to create this platform for us.

My name is Milton Irving. I'm the executive director of the Timothy Smith network and also a proud board member of Madison Park Development Corp. I'm the proud funder of the Boston Neighborhood Network, the Roxbury Innovation Center as well as 20 other local organizations.

We provide technology, equipment services, professional development and information and opportunities to them. What I would like to talk about is creating access points and making sure that we had a gentleman to speak from Northeastern University and someone speak about the local business community to make sure that Verizon is truly dedicated to providing information that is equitable across all access points.

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That's truly important for our community.

What does fiber mean for the local business owner across the street from the Bolling Building, what does it mean for the low-income residents of this City?

My hope is that Verizon will be dedicated to creating sustainable access points to all people across this City. Because if we do not, we will have dug up the streets and have wires in people's houses and built fires to access points to nowhere.

And that is something we can ill afford to do in the City that is transforming, that is building, that is growing. And I'm a proud Bostonian resident, and I want to make sure that Verizon is committed to that effort to access points, to the low-income communities, the local startups, businesses, and to everyone who will have access to be able to provide stable information,

1 quality information access points and the like for 2 themselves and their families. 3 MR. HODGE: Thank you very much. Walter 4 Higgins. 5 I'm Walter Higgins, resident MR. HIGGINS: 6 of Jamaica Plain. It looks like hell has frozen over. 7 I never thought I'd see the day when Verizon finally 8 comes to the City of Boston. 9 I would like to mention what are the plans for 10 the FiOS build out dealing with 5G? How is that 11 factored into the deployment of FiOS across Boston? 12 Also, I would like to see FiOS be accessible to all the City and not be cherry picking certain areas. 13 I read over several years that deployment has to be 14 15 completed -- you know, places like Baltimore where 16 people have been waiting for FiOS for a long time. 17 They ask for Verizon come in and they never 18 I'm surprised ten years later that FiOS has 19 decided to come to the City of Boston. And I hope it's 20 done right. Other cities right now are still waiting 2.1 and still waiting for development to be completed. 2.2 MR. FITZPATRICK: The City would never allow a situation like that to occur. Verizon has 23 2.4 committed to be subject to negotiation of the license

about the product of some discussion with the City about where is the appropriate place to start.

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And it is the hope, as Verizon has expressed, that if the license is granted, they will go beyond the service center. And the City will have a voice in that discussion about where it stands and how it expands.

We would never allow a situation where a provider just came in and picked certain types of neighborhoods because of their economic makeup.

It's the City's vision that Verizon will bring FiOS to the entire City, if that's possible and if that can be done and on an equitable basis, and also meets their business needs.

MR. HAYNES: Will that be done using traditional fiber to home or combination of traditional fiber and wireless?

MR. FITZGERALD: Verizon can speak to that better than I can. This is a technology that is changing very quickly. At the moment, it's cable delivered by FiOS.

MR. BOWMAN: Verizon in its submission to the City and Issuing Authority Report indicated that it intends to use DFTTP or FiOS network in the same way it has in any other franchise.

Separate and distinct from that, Verizon recently reached an agreement for a wireless license with the City of Boston. It's intending to add facilities through that license for the near term and the long term. What that technology may be we're not sure.

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MR. HODGE: Thank you for the comments. Two things from the City's perspective. We hope this will be a deal that helps to close gaps that exist in the City today, not exacerbate them.

So when we look at the communities that are under connected or under served, it is our goal in the series of agreements with Verizon to help bring more market competition, more options and more availability of services to more places, with special attention being paid to those that do not have those options or the choices they need today.

As it pertains to the cable license specifically and the technologies that deliver it, I think, as Paul alluded to, today we are contemplating a traditional fiber built cable license based around the traditional fiber build, one that involves fiber connections directly to the premises.

As it's been noted, technology is evolving and

certainly the City now and in the future remains open to changes in the technology landscape. But certainly any license that we would grant given that technology landscape today will be based on a facilities fiber based technology that is it prudent to be able to deliver the kind of service that's being contemplated here.

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So there will be an opportunity for us to look at the details of that as we go through the negotiation.

Do you have a follow-up?

MS. VIDALIS: I want to ask how neighborhoods were chosen. You had mentioned that based on business plan whether or not and how long it will take before it goes City wide.

Before they submitted an application, wouldn't that be something and before the application gets approved, wouldn't that be something that should have already been looked upon as smart business planning on Verizon's part?

Two questions: How are the neighborhoods chosen and why not Roxbury and Hyde Park or East Boston and Brighton, and what has Verizon done in terms of proper business planning to ensure that it can be City wide or do they know and are not telling us?

MR. HODGE: I'll let Verizon speak to their business plans. From the City's perspective about neighborhoods, Tom alluded to this but it is important for us that any build in any cable license that it not be cherry picking or it not be simply selecting a few neighborhoods that are perhaps the most profitable neighborhoods and leaving other parts of the City behind.

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We also recognize this needs to start somewhere. And so we engaged in conversations with Verizon to both understand their business imperatives, and they can speak to those in some detail, as well as our desire to see any build -- at any point in time if you were to look at the map of where service is being provided reflect a broad and equitable cross-section of the City of Boston.

So the neighborhoods that were proposed in the initial service area met that need of the City to see a broad and equitable view while also being aligned with Verizon's business plan.

MR. BOWMAN: I think what we have done here as I stated earlier when we announced this in April, we announced we were going to roll out our fiber network across the City and we began in some of the most

diverse parts of the City.

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This is an extensive build, like I said earlier, that could take five to six years to build out and deploy this network.

To your comments and the gentlemen before you, this is an infrastructure that will allow not only video and TV and Internet, the traditional services, but also will go beyond that and will help fuel wireless expansion in the City, will help fuel business in the City both large and small.

Right here in the Roxbury Innovation District, we think it's very important for us to start here so we can help fuel economic development within the City and across the City.

So we in partnership with the City are very proud of the beginning of this project and really are committed to deploying this across the City.

MR. HODGE: Thank you very much. Next up Ray Butler followed by Kelly Chunn.

MR. BUTLER: Good evening. My name is Ray Butler. I'm a long-time resident in the City of Boston in the Neponset area of Dorchester.

I have also owned a business in Savin Hill for over 20 years. And I just echo the previous two

speakers. My concern was would the platform be available to both my neighborhood as a resident and also my business in the whole of Dorchester. That was my concern.

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I wanted to make sure it wasn't just cherry picking to specific areas, that it would be available to the whole City.

MR. HODGE: The City will in the negotiation process be working to finalize the specific boundaries of the initial service area. Along with that will be obligations that come from the license agreement and from Massachusetts cable law for the build out of that service area.

So we will work to negotiate a license that ensures that within whatever the agreed service area is in any expanded footprint that service is made available to as many residents and businesses as is possible.

Understanding, however, that in all of the licenses granted, Comcast and the agreement we have with RCN that allows them to provide service, there are certain exceptions that are typically negotiated into any cable license that identifies circumstances in which a provider may not be obligated to offer service within that service area.

There are a variety of issues, and we will still working through the list. But fundamentally the goal is to give universal service and recognizing there may be technical or legal or other obstacles that exist under very specific, particularly the enumerated circumstances in which universal service may not be achieved.

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Our goal as the City is to minimize the number of people in that service area that may not be able to get service. Thank you very much.

MS. CHUNN: Good evening. I'm Kelly
Chunn. I'm a resident of Roxbury and I have a public
relations and marketing business based in the Fort
Hill/Highland Park section of Roxbury.

I come in support of BNN which I've served as a consultant and also as a producer of some of their programing, particularly as it relates to arts, cultural and education programing as well as special events and civic engagement across the community.

I have also come to encourage you to extend your community partnership. There was some mention made of digital equity. We are now in the middle of forming the Roxbury Cultural District which you may be aware of.

Dudley would be an integral part of the

district as would John Elliot Square. So as you continue to engage in community benefits and community partnership, put that in the mix as well. We expect it to be officially designated within the coming year by the Mass. Cultural Council. So continuing to support BNN and being aware of the Roxbury Cultural district on the horizon. Thank you.

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MR. HODGE: Thank you for your comments and the great work in support of the culture of this neighborhood. Next up we have Bill Kennedy followed by Ashley Lewis.

MR. KENNEDY: Good evening. Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Bill Kennedy, here with my wife Annmarie. We reside at 1245 Adams Street in the Lower Mills section of Dorchester.

I'm a lawyer in Boston. My wife is a business teacher at the high school level. She certainly sees from her students the importance of technology and the importance of expanding opportunities as you heard from Don Gillis, the Boston PIC and others in exposing students to technology and innovation.

In my role as an attorney, I do perform legislative counsel work for Verizon. In that capacity, I've seen firsthand the importance that competition has

as a consumer and user of the service, on price, on quality, on programing and on response to any questions or complaints.

I see how that is so important when you have choice between what company you will use for your television, phone or computer service. By competition, that choice itself makes the companies perform better.

As a consumer, if I have a choice, I can walk. I can go to a competitor if I'm not satisfied with the company.

Growing up all my life outside of Fields

Corner in the shadow of what we call the phone company

building. The phone company, now Verizon, has always

been a great participant in the civic, philanthropic and

business life of the City.

And they continue to do that today by creating jobs, by other businesses that spin-off from Verizon's investment, and by its philanthropic charitable contributions, whether it's to the PIC, whether to the innovation district or health care.

They are a great citizen of the City and I believe that will continue. I support this network and thank you for the opportunity.

MR. HODGE: Thank you.

2.2

MS. LEWIS: Good evening. My name is
Ashley Lewis. I also came to speak on behalf of the
Boston Neighborhood Network, also known as BNN. Once a
long, long time ago when I was a teen, the summer was
approaching and I picked up a newspaper in the hallway
of my high school not two blocks down the street, and I
picked up a newspaper that said summer opportunities
furnished by the City.

2.1

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2.4

And in it I found the Boston Neighborhood

Network. And that summer I worked there and actually I

got every student monetary compensation for our work

there through PIC. And almost every summer since then I

have worked at BNN.

Today I stand as an internship coordinator and video technician. I also have a job at the New England Sports Network. I've gone to regional at NESN and hopefully one day to international, national and then international.

So as far as my information and knowledge has led me, fiberoptics don't technically fall under the label cable which now supports BNN and its programs and its ability to continue to grow with technology to HD and maybe one day to 4K.

I want to implore Verizon to in whatever

capacity support BNN in the future. Thank you. 1 2 MR. HODGE: Thank you very much for 3 sharing your story and experiences with us. 4 We have reached the end of the list of people to speak. I think we will conclude this. I want to say 5 6 thank you to the City staff who helped to put this 7 together, to the stenographer and folks from Verizon for 8 participating here today. 9 And most importantly, thank you to all of you 10 for coming and sharing your thoughts and input with us. This is a critically important part of our learning as 11 12 we go into the license negotiation process. 13 Thank you all very much. With that, we conclude. If you have any additional comments you would 14 15 like to share, send to boston.gov/verizon. We will send 16 you a comments form where you can submit them. 17 This meeting and everything that's part of the 18 record will be made available on line there as well. 19 Thank you. 20 2.1 22 23 24

1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS PLYMOUTH, SS.
4	I, Patricia M. Haynes, a Notary Public in and
5	for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby
6	certify:
7	That the testimony hereinbefore set forth is a
8	true and accurate record of my stenotype notes taken in
9	the foregoing matter, to the best of my knowledge, skill
10	and ability.
11	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
12	hand and Notarial Seal this day of August 2016.
13	
14	
15	Patricia M. Haynes, CSR
16	Notary Public
17	
18	
19	My commission expires June 30, 2017
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	

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